

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

WHEREAS, Josef Meier was one of nine children born to Heinrich and Theodora Meier in Luenen, Germany, where he made his debut as a Christus portrayer at the age of 10 weeks, an occupation for which he has become world famous and which he still practices today; and,

WHEREAS, Leaving behind his family and a homeland in the cluthes of Adolph Hitler, Josef Meier immigrated to the United States in 1928, and by 1932 he had formed a company of actors to assist him in introducing America to the Passion Play he first saw during Lent in Luenen; and,

WHEREAS, After touring the United States and Canada, bringing people closer to understanding Christ's last week on earth, Josef Meier found a permanent home for his Passion Play at Spearfish, South Dakota, and he later established a winter home for the play at Lake Wales, Florida; and,

WHEREAS, Since the first performance of the Passion Play, Josef Meier and his company have made over 7,000 performances for over 8.5 million people, and through his remarkably moving acting ability, he brought those people closer to Jesus Christ for which Pope Paul VI knighted him on July 5, 1965; and,

WHEREAS, Josef Meier has not only benefited the minds and hearts of those who witnessed his performances, he has also been a pillar of the Spearfish community and the larger community of South Dakota, donating his time and energy to the Lions, Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts, St. Joseph's Catholic Church and many other worthy causes; and,

WHEREAS, In gratitude for all that Josef Meier means to Spearfish, the city will honor him on the occasion of his Eightieth Birthday:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 10, 1984, as

JOSEF MEIER DAY

in South Dakota, and I join the people of Spearfish and South Dakota in wishing Josef Meier a happy, memorable day and many more years of health and happiness as one of South Dakota's foremost citizens.



ATTEST:

Alice Kundert
ALICE KUNDERT, SECRETARY OF STATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fourth Day of October, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Four

William J. Janklow
WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, GOVERNOR

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA - BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION - OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE MICROPHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGE APPEARING ON THIS SLIDE OF MICROFILM IS AN ACCURATE REPRODUCTION OF THE ORIGINAL RECORD AND WAS MICROFILMED IN THE REGULAR COURSE OF BUSINESS ACCORDING TO THE PROVISIONS OF SOUTH DAKOTA COMPILED LAW 1-27-4. IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED THAT THE PHOTOGRAPHIC PROCESS USED FOR MICROFILMING OF THE ABOVE RECORDS WAS IN A MANNER AND ON MICROFILM WHICH MEET THE RECOMMENDED REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS FOR PERMANENT MICROPHOTOGRAPHIC REPRODUCTIONS. REDUCTION 25:1 ROLL NO 4
DATE MICROFILMED November 6, 1985
CAMERA OPERATOR Mike Vogel